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## DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*A California State Agency*

January 9, 2015

Chair  
Randy Fiorini

Colonel Christopher C. Conlin, USMC (Ret)  
Deputy Director  
Division of Boating and Waterways  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Members  
Aja Brown  
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.  
Phil Isenberg  
Patrick Johnston  
Mary Piepho  
Susan Tatayon

Executive Officer  
Jessica R. Pearson

Dear Deputy Director Conlin:

On behalf of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Protection Commission and the Delta Conservancy, I want to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and your senior staff on Tuesday to discuss the invasive aquatic weed problem in the Delta. As I mentioned, the leadership you demonstrated at the December 15 Town Hall meeting in Stockton organized by Senator Cathleen Galgiani was very impressive and encouraging. You made it very clear that controlling invasive aquatic weeds in the Delta has been and will continue to be a challenging problem, that the Division of Boating and Waterways is the lead state agency responsible, and that you are doing your level best to develop and execute an effective plan.

It was good to meet you Tuesday and to hear from you, Eddie Hard and Leandro Ramos about the aquatic weeds work you have been conducting and the many partnerships that have developed with other agencies. We appreciated the opportunity to learn more about your plans and to exchange ideas.

The partnerships you have established with USDA-ARS, NASA and CDFA seem to be fruitful. Cultivation and maintenance of those partnerships and others will be necessary for long-term effectiveness, and we recognize our agencies can help play a role here. As you pointed out, the threat these invasive weeds present goes well beyond the recreational boating industry. Hopefully future funding for your agency will reflect that the scope of the problem extends to the shipping industry, Delta agriculture, vector control, water exports and many other important interests.

I think you heard on Tuesday each of our agencies express a willingness to assist your agency with this challenging issue. The Delta Stewardship Council offered to help organize a day-long symposium to highlight the science needs and resources for aquatic weed control. Rainer Hoenicke, Deputy Executive Director of the Delta Science Program, would be the point person and can be contacted at (916) 445-5825. Additionally, Dan Ray suggested that you may wish to highlight your plans and progress occasionally in the Estuary News, a publication that regularly features Delta related activities.

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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

— CA Water Code §85054

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Deputy Director  
Division of Boating and Waterways  
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Keith Coolidge, the Council's Executive Manager for External Affairs, would be our contact and can be reached at (916) 445-4503.

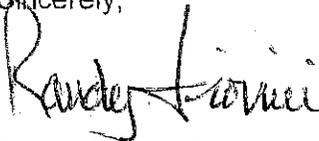
In response to your stated need for more resources, such as boats for herbicide application and mechanical removal, there seemed to be a consensus that opportunities exist for greater involvement by local Delta stakeholders. Erik Vink recommended that you continue conducting public information presentations that have been well received and helpful. Additionally, Erik indicated that the Delta Protection Commission would be willing to help you engage locals in aquatic weed control efforts, such as enlisting Marina operators to explore ways they could assist with either chemical or mechanical control actions. The weed control partnerships you have initiated with Merced and Fresno Counties could serve as models for Delta counties to expand your "Navy" when the aquatic weeds rapidly appear throughout the Delta.

The Delta Conservancy has a great deal of experience bringing together interested parties and stakeholders to share ideas and developing plans. I think you are familiar with their work and have worked closely with them in the past. Their ongoing efforts to address both aquatic and terrestrial weed control in the Delta as it relates to habitat restoration suggest they may be able to help you as you develop your Weeds Management Plan.

It was a valuable meeting for all of us. Please let us know if there is anything further we might do to assist you in your role as the lead state agency for aquatic weed control in the Delta.

Best wishes for a successful 2015 and a year filled with adequate precipitation and minimal weed problems.

Sincerely,



Randy Fiorini, Chairman

cc: Dan Ray, Chief Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council  
Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
Erik Vink, Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission  
Taryn Ravazzini, Coordinator, Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee  
Gavin Landgraf, Executive Fellow, Delta Stewardship Council  
Rainer Hoenicke, Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council Science Program  
Keith Coolidge, Executive Manager for External Affairs, Delta Stewardship Council